





William Buckmaster, Editor.

## WAR WITH MEXICO.

Since our last publication we have had exciting news from the seat of war. The "Army of occupation" under Gen. Taylor, stationed on the east bank of the river Grande, and opposite to the town of Matamoros, falling short of provisions, and fearing the safety of the stores left at Point Isabel, about 30 miles down river, Gen. T. left about 500 troops to guard the stores, and marched with the remainder to Point Isabel to secure the stores.

As soon as the Mexican army at Matamoros were apprised of his departure they commenced cannonading his entrenchments and threw a number of shots. The keepers of the fortress, under Major Brown returned the fire, and in thirty minutes silenced their guns. A number of the Mexicans were killed, some accounts say 700, but this is all conjecture. Only one man under Major Brown was killed. This flurry took place on the 2d inst., and was continued on the 4th.

Meanwhile Gen. Taylor marched his 2,000 men to Point Isabel, arriving in the evening of the same day on which he left his fortress opposite to Matamoros. He encountered no enemy on his way, and found all quiet on his arrival. But soon learning of the attack on his fort he resolved to return immediately, being apprised that many of the Mexicans had crossed over to this side of the river to prevent his return as well as to attack his fort in the rear.

The situation of the small and gallant army under Gen. Taylor was critical, and the public are anxiously waiting to hear of his safe return to his fort. As large numbers of Mexicans were known to be under arms on this side of the river and preparing to annoy him. Reports say 10, or 15,000 had assembled, and would take advantage of the thickets, the branches, and the prickly pears to lie in ambush.

Gen. Taylor's dispatches were received at Washington on Tuesday evening. The following account of their contents appears in the Union, the administration paper:

FROM THE RIO GRANDE. We learn that dispatches were received this evening from Gen. Taylor, dated the 23d and 24th inst.—both Point Isabel and the fort on the Rio Grande, perfectly safe.

On the 1st, the defenses on the river being made strong, (nearly completed,) General Taylor left a garrison of some 500 men, under Major Brown, of the 7th Infantry, and marched with the remainder of his army (37 miles) to Point Isabel. Not an enemy was seen (all but one mortar) during the march. All apprehensions for the safety of that depot of supplies were thus dissipated.

But on the morning (5 o'clock) of the 3d, the enemy, from the side of Matamoros, opened a heavy cannonade upon our fort, which lasted with little intermission till midnight. In the meantime the enemy's guns (all but one mortar) were silenced by our fort. Major Brown lost one sergeant killed, and not another man wounded. Our gallant little band expected an assault from this side of the river at the same time, and was fully prepared to repel it. No such assault was made. Matamoros was necessarily fired upon in the act of silencing the enemy's batteries, and also to kill or disperse the troops therein quartered. The buildings were probably but little damaged. The inhabitants, no doubt, had mostly fled before the commencement of the cannonade. The number of Mexican troops was killed was only known by conjecture; no doubt a considerable number.

General Taylor, at Point Isabel expected, on the 5th, to march the next day with a heavy train of supplies for the fort on the river and hence to assume offensive operations against the Mexicans; but a private letter makes the probable conjecture that General Arista had returned with his regulars to the other side of the river—leaving in the chapparals only the rangers—his irregular cavalry. It is not likely that he will re-embark Texas, as Gen. Taylor had received, or expected to receive the 6th inst., several detachments of troops, (regulars and irregulars) from New Orleans.

The affair with Capt. Walker's Mexican rangers, as we represented by rumor was more or less exaggerated. In the temporary absence of that gallant and enterprising officer, his company lost, by surprise, but a handful of men—8 or 10.

Captains Thornton and Hardee, and Lieutenant Kane, prisoners of war, at Matamoros, were reported themselves to Gen. Taylor, by letter, as kindly treated.

In the cannonade, Major Brown, Capt. Mansfield of the Engineers, Capt. Lovell and the garrison were all much distinguished.

General Taylor always writes coolly. His march, which he expected to meet 3000 Mexican horse, was a gallant enterprise. The Mexicans have not probably had, good and bad, 4000 troops on the lower Rio Grande.

From the Courier of yesterday we copy the following:

"WAR! WAR! It is understood that a resolution is to be passed by the Legislature, that the President under the Governor of Massachusetts for three regiments as the proportion of this state, to aid in repelling the invasion of our territory by the Mexicans! That our militia will be as ready to serve the country in time of need as of any other state. It would be a war for what it is worth; There is a small balance, something short of a million of dollars due to Massachusetts for the services of her militia in the war of 1812. Now would it not be fair and honorable in the United States Congress to adjust this old outstanding account, before it calls for any further services of a like character? 'Tis as you go, an excellent maxim, and should be observed in governments as well as in smaller matters, such, for instance, as the little accounts of printers or carpenters. We hope that Mr. Polk will forthwith recommend to Congress the discharging of the Massachusetts claim—not as a matter of justice, for it has been seen that a claim on that ground is quite ineffectual—but merely to encourage the Massachusetts militia to come forward, and help to repel the invasion by the Mexicans."

Another curious rumor of the day, yesterday, was that Adjutant-General Oliver had received a letter from the Secretary of War, requesting him to station bodies of troops on the forts in Boston harbor, to have them ready in case of need, to join the regular army in Texas; and furthermore, that General Oliver had written to the Secretary of War the funds necessary to carry his request into effect, which Mr. Polk, the Secretary of War, has returned an answer, stating that he is not authorized to supply the funds for this purpose. What is to be done in such a case? Neither the Adjutant-General nor the Governor can draw a dollar from the state treasury for this object, without a special act of the Legislature.

It is much to be regretted that war has been begun without proper preparation. But since it is begun, we hope the powers that be will carry it on with vigor, and put an end to it as quickly as possible. It seems to us to have been the height of folly to place Gen. Taylor on the border of Mexico, with a mere handful of men. If it were expedient to send an "Army of occupation" into that region, it should have been an army of numerical strength enough to "look down opposition," or, in other words, to strike not only a blow, but let that be an efficient and decisive one.

The dispatches to be traversed by the earliest aid could reach Point Isabel are as follows: From Galveston by the outside route, 320 miles; from Galveston by the inside route, 230 miles; from New Orleans to the Mississippi and thence to the Rio Grande, 202 miles; from Matamoros to the Rio Grande, by the course of the river, about 70 miles. (Post.)

On Thursday afternoon the Petitioners for the Framingham Branch Railway held their meeting at the Town Hall in Framingham, pursuant to the notice published in our last. A good number attended from Wayland and Weston. I. Fiske, Esq. of Weston, Register of Probate for the county, was chosen to preside over the meeting, and Rufus Brewer, Esq. of Framingham, Cashier of the Bank, was chosen Secretary.

A vote was taken to accept the Charter granted to the Petitioners, after which a subscription book was opened,—and in about two hours fifty thousand dollars were subscribed.—One gentleman from Framingham took 100 shares—another 50 shares—and another 25 shares. One gentleman from Weston took 30 shares. Four of our wealthiest men were absent on business, who, we learn, will all assist in the enterprise; and we are pleased to see that our farmers and mechanics of less property are all willing to do their part. One half of the whole stock—say \$80,000,—will undoubtedly be taken in the town of Framingham.

Seven Directors were chosen, and the business of surveying will be prosecuted without delay. The Directors are Rufus Brewer, Moses Edgell, Horace Howard, Charles R. Train, Esq., Mr. Marshall Jones, Doctor S. Whitney, and Mr. L. S. Wheeler.

Bye laws were prepared and adopted by the meeting.

On Tuesday, Capt. Charles Fisher of Southboro, raised a house frame last week, and on Wednesday last when the roof was shingling, the wind crashed the building to pieces, breaking much of the timber. Three men were at work on it, and all escaped without injury.

The sides ought to be boarded all round before the roof is boarded, then the wind would have less power. (Ed.)

The N. O. Picayune says the steamship Alabama has been chartered by Government at \$15,000 per month.—It says that volunteers are pouring in from all quarters, and the idea of resorting to a draft is abandoned.

On Tuesday, Andrew J. Cummings, a lad of 13, was thrown down while running a fire engine in Charlestown, and a loaded team passed over his body, killing him instantly.

Robert B. Thomas, Esq. the venerable compiler of the "Old Farmer's Almanac," died on Tuesday last at West Boylston, aged 80 years.

## WAR PROCLAMATION.

By the President of the United States of America.

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas, the Congress of the United States, by virtue of its constitutional authority vested in them, has declared by their act, passed on the 13th day of May, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, that by an act of the Republic of Mexico, a state of war exists between that Government and the United States;

Now, therefore, I, JAMES K. POLK, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the same to all whom it may concern; and I do specially enjoin on all persons holding offices, civil and military, under the authority of the United States, that they be vigilant and zealous in discharging the duties respectively incident thereto; and I do moreover exhort all the good people of the United States, as they love their country, that they feel the wrongs which have been done to the last resort of injured nations, and as they consider the best means, under the blessing of Divine Providence, of abridging the calamities, that they exert themselves in preserving order, in promoting concord, in maintaining the authority and the efficacy of the laws, and in supporting and invigorating the measures which may be adopted by the constituted authorities, for obtaining a speedy, a just, and an honorable peace.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed, at the City of Washington, on the thirteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, and of the Independence of the United States the seventh.

By the President, JAMES K. POLK, Secretary of State.

The Boston Post says: "It can be shown that the Rio Grande has always been the boundary of Texas."

We have profane hand, which the Post cannot gainsay, that this is a mistake. The Washington Union, of Thursday last, in a manifesto which bears the official stamp, makes this acknowledgment: "The district lying between the river Nueces and the Rio del Norte, was disputed ground, claimed by both parties. In the merits of that controversy it is not our present purpose to enter. Each claimed the right to the territory, and each made claims for the proper subjects of negotiation."

As a question of fact, the territory between the two rivers never was in the constitutional possession of Texas as an independent government, or as a part of Mexico.

It is true (we use the language of the Philadelphia News) that Texas has claimed the Rio Grande, but it is not true that she has ever maintained that claim. It is true that she has claimed the Rio del Norte, or between the Nueces and the Rio del Norte has been represented in the Texas Congress as a part of the country.

As an all-sufficient answer to this position, we quote the remark of General Houston, Senator from Texas, in reply to Mr. Calhoun, on Tuesday last: "Mr. Houston contended that they were actually in the hands of the Mexicans, and that Texas had been annexed in the face of a declaration on the part of Mexico that she would regard it as an act of war, and in making Texas to herself, our government had assumed war."

The Washington correspondent of the Express writes as follows under date of Tuesday night: "DECLARATION OF WAR BY MEXICO AGAINST THE UNITED STATES. The Government of Mexico declared war against the United States on the 23d of April. I learn this news directly through the President and the Secretary of State, who laid a translation of the Declaration of War, from the Texas of the North. Mr. Jones of California, who was the President's messenger, is informed that Mexico expects aid from England."

The N. Y. Evening Post says:—The Texas was debated, that the convenience of a barrier as the broad sandy and barren waste between the Rio Nueces and the Rio Grande, would furnish, with the Rio del Norte, a natural boundary. We have passed over that barrier already, and are beginning to talk of no other immediate boundary but the great mountain chain, the mother ridge of the present a barrier to the table lands of Mexico.

FIRE AT CAMBRIDGE. About five o'clock yesterday afternoon, smoke was seen to issue from the house occupied by the Rev. Dr. Francis Kirkland, on the corner of the Cambridge street. The flames soon burst through the roof, and the engines in the neighborhood were promptly brought to the spot. But there was no water, and the fire was entirely destroyed by the fire. The house belonged to the family of the late Rev. Henry Ward, Jr. We presume it was fully insured. [Courier of Wednesday.]

STOCK-BREAKERS ARRESTED. Two brothers, named Francis and Wilson Smith, were arrested early yesterday morning by constable Clapp and his associates, on suspicion of having been traced to their possession a considerable quantity of goods stolen from stores recently broken open and robbed in Woburn, Walham, and Lexington. They were taken to the house of their father at the corner of Mount and Nashua streets. Their father and a third brother were also arrested, but it is not expected that the evidence will implicate them. [Post.]

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Our pipet gun is now firing at a party of Mexican soldiers about a mile below the fort. The chapter between this and the fort is a bee-hive, so full of it that it is impossible to keep it from firing as usual on the rear of the fort, and to repel the march of the troops from this place returning. Gen. Taylor leaves as soon as a reinforcement arrives here, which will enable them to have made good the fort which we have brought down from above.

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He then returned, taking the precaution to get out of distance of musketry, dismounted and examined the arms of his men, determined to sell their lives as dearly as possible. Before he had done so, the remainder of his men were surrounded by a Mexican officer, who asked him to surrender. Capt. H. replied that he would surrender on one condition, which was, that if the Mexican General would receive them as prisoners of war, and treat them as the most civilized nations could treat the remainder of his men, he would surrender. The Mexican officer then returned with the assurance that he would. Capt. H. then surrendered. Capt. Thornton and Hardee, with Lieut. Kane and the remainder of the non-commissioned officers and privates of Capt. T.'s command, are now prisoners of war in Mexico. The enemy treat them remarkably well.

PATRIOTISM. It is stated that about fifty members of Congress have applied to the President for appointments, either for themselves or their relatives, in the army, and that there is an immense number of patriotic officers to serve the country, upon condition of having a commission. [Cor. U. S. Gazette.]

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Mr. Sims, of S. C., opposed the pending amendment, to increase the pay of privates to \$10 per month. Mr. S. defended the administration, and maintained that the executive had been guilty of no improprieties, under the law of nations, in prosecuting the war with Mexico.

Mr. Lumpkin, of Georgia, followed in a written speech in defense of what had been done by the executive. Mr. L. urged that the President could not properly have acted otherwise than he has done.

He respected the opinions of those who had voted against the bill to declare war, and gave them credit for their sincerity in avowing their willingness to support supplies.

Mr. Tombs made a very animated speech and denounced the bill which passed congress for prosecuting the war, as prefaced by an avowal which was untrue. Mr. T. declared that the war was a war of aggression on Mexico, and a usurpation of power.

Mr. Chittenden continued the debate. Mr. Grider followed and said the war was an executive war.

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Being shot in the head with a 3 lb. ball. He was carried to the hospital, where, at 3 p. m., he died, and his body was buried in the hospital. Some twenty men standing around the hospital when the shell burst; several were knocked down, but none injured. One artillery soldier was slightly wounded by a piece of a shell, and killing but one man. We kept up our fire for about two hours—saving our ammunition while there was being thrown away. From their having thrown from 1500 to 2000 shots and shells, and from the number of men and shells, you may judge they are none of the best artillerymen, and that we had good fellows. Their shots rendered a good many of our tents unserviceable, but all our men are in good spirits and anxious to continue the fight.

Our pipet gun is now firing at a party of Mexican soldiers about a mile below the fort. The chapter between this and the fort is a bee-hive, so full of it that it is impossible to keep it from firing as usual on the rear of the fort, and to repel the march of the troops from this place returning. Gen. Taylor leaves as soon as a reinforcement arrives here, which will enable them to have made good the fort which we have brought down from above.

CAPT. WALKER'S SKIRMISH. There has been much written concerning Capt. Walker's skirmish with a party of Mexicans. It will be seen by the dispatches of Gen. Taylor, published in this paper, that it was no great affair after all.

CAPT. THORNTON'S. The Picayune has some further particulars of the affair of Capt. Thornton. After describing the encounter as before published, the account says:—

"At this instant, Capt. Hardee approached him for the purpose of advising him that the Mexicans were in the neighborhood of his position. The firing of the enemy still continuing, Capt. Thornton's horse, having doublets received a shot, ran away with him and leaped the chapparal fence and plunged into a precipice, where he fell, with Capt. T. under him. The Mexicans then advanced upon him for five or six hours. This caused Capt. Thornton, Hardee in command, who attempted with the remainder to make his escape by the river, intending on arriving at his margin to swim it. In this he failed, finding it so boggy that he could not get to the river."

He then returned, taking the precaution to get out of distance of musketry, dismounted and examined the arms of his men, determined to sell their lives as dearly as possible. Before he had done so, the remainder of his men were surrounded by a Mexican officer, who asked him to surrender. Capt. H. replied that he would surrender on one condition, which was, that if the Mexican General would receive them as prisoners of war, and treat them as the most civilized nations could treat the remainder of his men, he would surrender. The Mexican officer then returned with the assurance that he would. Capt. H. then surrendered. Capt. Thornton and Hardee, with Lieut. Kane and the remainder of the non-commissioned officers and privates of Capt. T.'s command, are now prisoners of war in Mexico. The enemy treat them remarkably well.

PATRIOTISM. It is stated that about fifty members of Congress have applied to the President for appointments, either for themselves or their relatives, in the army, and that there is an immense number of patriotic officers to serve the country, upon condition of having a commission. [Cor. U. S. Gazette.]

THE RIO GRANDE. We presume our readers all understand that the Rio Grande, Rio Bravo and Rio del Norte, are the same river, and that the same great River, which rises in the southern slope of the Rocky Mountains and runs nearly due South almost 2,000 miles into the Gulf of Mexico. Its course is in good part through a great and fertile country, and is bordered on each side by an immense number of wide, fertile plains. Valuable mines of Gold and Silver exist in the province of Santa Fe, some 1500 miles from its mouth. The river is generally rapid and rocky, rendering it dangerous to navigate, and we believe it can be ascended by steamboats, or 4 or



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